

## MAYDAY, MAYDAY

Dear Friend,

You never want to be on an airplane or a boat and hear the captain saying, “Mayday! Mayday!” Mayday means only one thing, “We’re going down.” Unless there is a change, casualties are likely to happen. In an airplane, “nose down” means the plane is in a descent.

Our attitude is an indication of the direction our life is going. If our attitude is down, things are not going well. Nose-up and things are looking up. There are examples of many people in the Bible with “nose-down” and “nose-up” attitudes. When I think of Daniel, I think of nose-up! When I think of Jonah, I think of nose-down – considering Jonah’s situation, I can understand why he had a nose-down outlook – he had an attitude crash. What brought about the crash?

God told him to go to Nineveh and warn of impending doom unless the Gentiles (non-Jewish) people turned to God. You know the story, Jonah didn’t want to go, and God ended up putting him in the belly of a sea animal. Jonah came to his senses and the sea animal deposited him on the shore. Jonah said, “okay, God, I’ll go”, he warns the people that if they don’t repent disaster is coming. The people repented and no disaster! A great thing, right? Not in the eyes of Jonah.

What made his attitude crash? First, his attitude crashed from within. I call this a self-imposed crash, not dealing well with things we can control. He didn’t have control over the Ninevites and their reactions, but did have the option of how he would react. First, he reacted with anger. Why would he be angry over the fact these people turned to God? I can only suppose maybe he felt embarrassed that he said God’s judgement was coming and it didn’t. Maybe he was angry because he felt like they weren’t worth “saving”. Jonah’s attitude also crashed because he had a self-pity party (see Jonah 4). All of this leads to a simple conclusion: getting upset over things we cannot control sends our attitude into a nose dive. Also, our attitude can crash from “without”, meaning others are acting against us in a hurtful/negative manner. The closeness of criticism can cause an attitude crash (again, a source that comes from without). Changes in our life can create an attitude crash. A strained relationship can cause an attitude crash.

So... what’s the solution? First, try to take your eyes off yourself. Second, open your ears to what God may be saying to you. Third, do not isolate yourself and look for opportunities to help others. I pray that you can keep your “nose-up”. It’s a good idea for a plane and a good idea for you.

In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Mike

Prayer: Donna Clickenger, Glenna Stanley, Dick Fisher